1 2 3 4	Approved Minutes Planning Board & School Board September 24, 2014		
5	Planning Board Members Present		
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6	Kristi St. Laurent, Chairman	Jim Fricchione, Alternate	
7	Paul Gosselin	Steve Bookless, Alternate	
8	Pam Skinner	David Oliver, Alternate	
9	Margaret Krisler	Bruce Breton, Selectman	
10	Kathleen DiFruscia		
11	Vanessa Nysten		
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13	Windham School Board Members:		
14	Dr. Jerome Rekart, Chairman; Dennis Seni	baldi, Vice Chairman; Ken Eyring;	
15	Rob Breton; Mike Joanis		
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17	Also in attendance:		
18	Laura Scott, Community Development Director; Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent		
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20	Kristi St. Laurent called the meeting to or	der at 7:07pm. Pledge followed.	
21	m)		
22	This will be a workshop meeting to discuss a potential town growth management		
23	•	oell, helped facilitate the understanding of	
24	the RSA's.		
25	DOL (574.00 N		
26	RSA 674:23 allow a community to adopt a moratorium – stop -gap measure, in most		
27	cases for one year. 674:22 – allows for a more controlled, staggered town growth to		
28	allow for town services to be managed in	a more reasonable fashion.	
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30	The Planning Board discussed a threshold to put a moratorium on growth and noted		
31	it would only be used if there were a catastrophe with one of the schools, for		
32	example. The question remains if the tow	n is being impacted by continued growth.	
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34	Kristi St. Laurent spoke of the schools being the most area of impact and questioned		
35	if the Planning Board should consider a Growth Management Ordinance. If they		
36	decided to move forward, a supportive st	udy would have to be done.	
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38	(7:13pm) Margaret Crisler spoke of heari		
39	residents that growth is affecting the scho	1	
40	communities that have a Growth Manager	nent Ordinance in place (50 other	
41	communities).		
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43	Jerry Rekart spoke of current enrollment	= · ·	
44	relates to school facilities. There is agreement to use NESDEC enrollment numbers,		
45	•	estimation. 2900 students currently in the	
46	district. Enrollment remaining steady for	the next 10 years. The finished Route 93	

project has not been factored in. Noting the problem being that the growth has already taken place. They are two grades down in order to provide proper instruction for the students currently in the district. The School Board is concerned that the projections could be higher than predicted.

Vanessa Nysten – questioned how many students are in a given classroom. Jerry noted Windham is approximately 20 classrooms short with approximately 8-13 classrooms per grade. Windham exceeds the recommended state guidelines for classroom size.

(7:20pm) Mike Joanis spoke of it being difficult for many people to understand that support space is also needed in addition to 20 classrooms. If they want to keep putting students into the district and increase class sizes more, they would keep taking away enrichment and foreign language offerings.

Jerry Rekart spoke of the Middle School library space being halved and segregating classrooms. Special Education requirements are federally mandated.

Kathleen DiFruscia questioned in the absence of a growth management ordinance, where would they be if it became worse. Jerry Rekart noted that the 2900 students are not spread equally across the grades. There are larger groups/bubbles of students that need to be addressed. They would continue to be in a situation that is not ideal. Not all birth rates are reported in NH. Kindergarten variables should be taken into consideration.

Vanessa Nysten noted that workforce housing also has to be taken into account. If water and sewer are brought in, it will increase density.

Mike Joanis explained the current use of space in school facilities. Storage closets have been converted into classroom space. Special Education instruction is sometimes being delivered in hallways – with every room possible being converted to a classroom. At this point, the board is in a position to say they are stretched to point of it being painful in terms of accommodating capacity.

David Oliver questioned what grade level(s) were they speaking of that would constitute the bubble of students progressing through the system. If the projections remain static or increase, that bubble has to move through and will take 5-6 years to progress through. Ken Eyring responded stating the needs in the elementary-middle schools have to be addressed. The high school can handle the capacity.

David Oliver spoke of residential growth/workforce housing having an impact on the schools. He feels there may not be enough capacity at the high school if the bubble reaches that grade level.

Ken Eyring spoke of some ordinances that were passed last year that may add to the overcrowding pressures.

A cluster development requires fewer infrastructures. They look for a reasonable approximation.

Dennis Senibaldi spoke of it really depending on how many students they put in each classroom. As the board moves through the process, he notes that it does not necessarily mean 20 classrooms are only needed.

Kristi St. Laurent agreed that they are only speaking of 20 classrooms as a way to visualize a rough amount of what will be needed.

Paul Gosselin stated in terms of looking at a growth manage ordinance, our schools may have not been able to keep up with that growth. It does not change where they are today, however. If you go back 5-10 years, how accurate is NESDEC? Jerry Rekart responded – they have been pretty accurate.

Jerry Rekart spoke of Rob Gustafson's projections. His numbers track higher. The big question will be what happens with route 93 project is completed.

(7:38pm) Joel Desilets stated NESDEC tracks up and then back down in 2017. Jerry does not want people to think they drop off dramatically. Joel spoke of the average number of students per class. He would like to stick with the average number of students per classroom, per grade and would like to see that historical data.

Jerry Rekart spoke of the "do nothing" report that was put together a few years ago. Some unified arts classes reached 30 students under that scenario.

Joel spoke of the question for the community coming down to the quality of education for students. Further questioning, if they envision a community that remains flat, why aren't the facilities committee considering a future addition to the high school.

Mike Joanis responded stating an addition to WHS did not make the cut. The concentration has been on elementary and middle schools.

Winfried Feneberg spoke of quality of education. They are very proud of the offerings at the high school and student success after graduation. He is concerned with the long-term effect of the overcrowding.

Vanessa Nysten – spoke of the voter's strong desire to have a downtown area that would include a condominium development. Noting such a development would have 2 bedroom or less per unit and should not impact the school system much at all.

Margaret Crisler spoke of schools already being overcrowded. The town will see more developments in town. She questioned if they are in a crisis mode?

Jerry Rekart stated they need two more grades. With economic recovery, he will not be surprised if they exceed the 1% growth.

Dennis Senibaldi spoke of it being nice to offer a foreign language offering of Mandarin Chinese, but that did not have as much interest. However, they did have more interest in more science offerings. He feels the growth management ordinance would have been prudent 5 or ten years ago.

Mike Joanis Feels they would be naive to think there will not be continued growth in the school district. Towns do eventually flatten out, but he does not see it happening soon. Other towns that opened a new high school have also seen a lot of growth and they all underestimated said growth.

Kathleen DiFruscia noted they are not near town build out.

Dennis Senibaldi stated they are looking to build something because they want to get classes off of carts and give space to special education etc. They try to stick with the NESDEC predictions. He does not see a growth ordinance stopping the issues they already have.

Kristi St. Laurent feels with all things being considered, they are heading towards a plateau. If they had done a growth management ordinance 10-15 years ago, it would have buffered those unanticipated bumps. If things stay the way they are going, they need to build for the plateau. A growth management ordinance has a termination date. She further stated they are supposed to have a capital improvement plan in place, alongside the ordinance.

Margaret Crisler noted Derry has a plan that is reviewed every year.

Dave Oliver spoke of the need for commercial base in Windham.

Jerry Rekart questioned how many buildable lots remain in Windham. Laura Scott responded stating she does not have town wide soil mapping to answer that. It does not take in account rezoning. It is anticipated they will be at build out in 20 years approximately. It is really a rough number. They still have quite a bit of buildable land (100's of acres).

They are looking at .8 children per school, per new home.

Vanessa Nysten spoke of the statics situation in Windham and all the factors that go into the amount of potential people that could live here.

(8:05pm) - Paul Gosselin questioned how many houses are in Windham today.

Joel noted good growth management means ability to control. The overcrowding is still occurring. Stating 30 towns in New Hampshire with a growth ordinance in place were anticipating 8000 – 10,000 more dwellings in their town. A lot of these towns had thousands of undeveloped acreage.

Margaret Crisler noted when she moved here, there were 5000 residents and it has increased substantially. It is not impossible to speak of that type of growth.

Vanessa Nysten spoke regarding population, Andover is still growing and they are having huge problems with their schools. They had 300 more units added because of municipal water and sewer. If Windham brings that in, the density will be exponential. We could have 25,000 people in Windham very easily. There is a way for us to catch-up.

A one-year moratorium was discussed by Laura Scott – noting they have 5228 housing units. The total build out projection in 2012 came in at 6504.

Paul Gosselin does not feel they meet the requirements for a moratorium. A growth management would level growth. Questioning how many years has Windham had 100 homes built per year? He does not think the growth management ordinance would work.

Bruce Breton noted a lot of those permits were for elderly housing.

Rob Breton – at .8 students per household, when you get to full build out you are talking about another high school. They are already in the hole.

Kristi St. Laurent spoke of a cap being set to protect the town from peaks.

Dennis Senibaldi agreed that the sewer issue has come and gone. There is a potential for municipal water. However, the water study failed. Windham has 8 units dedicated to workforce housing. Dennis feels they are not going to see triple-decker homes or garden style condos. Ms. Nysten commented the density bonus for work force housing applies to the entire project.

 Ken Eyring notes it is difficult to project. Noting the facilities committee is addressing their issues now and feels confident that it will be amenable to the community. The average birth rate is dropping. Most district enrollments have been dropping.

Kristi St. Laurent stated they are not like most school districts.

Ken Eyring– when we viewed the elementary school in Pelham, they built it for 1000 and it dropped down to 680 students. And it continues to drop. If you put a moratorium on property, consider how it will affect the remaining impact on parcels. Everyone's taxes may go up based on the overall value.

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Ken Eyring notes that one of the comfort levels he has surrounds the facilities committee discussion about doing things in phases. Corrections can be made down the road depending on enrollments either up or down. NESDEC projections have been fairly accurate.

(8:30pm) Mike Joanis noted the facilities committee is doing their work based on the NESDEC numbers being flat. He feels it to be highly unlikely the town will see one solution and one bond/warrant article.

Margaret Crisler – regarding the birth rate, 90% is move ins and were not born here. Other parcels that have a building permits, are much more valuable. She pointed out that the whole point of the growth management is to match the town growth with facilities growth. One of the problems for builders, is when you limit permits in a given year, they will get their permit in a down year, which is not good for the parcel owner. Even though they were in the middle of a recession, Windham had growth.

Vanessa Nysten– Derry's ordinance of 2014 had no more than 50 building permits for residential housing in a given year. Noting Mr. Eyring commented that property values might decrease; she feels it is the opposite effect. Further stating, if they are so overcrowded, it might adversely affect property values.

Public Comment (8:40pm)

Tom Murray – Facilities Committee Member. Spoke of the Charge they were given to address facilities. They created a classroom calculator, looking at real actual numbers along with the NESDEC numbers for accuracy. Whittled down to 3 or 4 options. The Committee discussed going down to 20 students per classroom. There is a significant amount of classrooms when you go from 20 students to 21, etc. They are in the process of vetting out classroom space, core and special Ed spaces. Enrollments are trending down, compared to the larger classes going through the system now (grades 5, 6 & 7). The NESDEC numbers are consistent. He is concerned with the numbers trending down. Pelham built their elementary school for 1000 students and their population is well below 1000.

Kristi St. Laurent questioned how NESDEC numbers looked in Pelham and if it was consistent.

Tom Murray – spoke of the Charter School being up in the air. He is concerned with overbuilding. If the Charter School comes to fruition, you will see a significant amount of students out of the equation.

Kristi St. Laurent spoke of being confused that Mr. Murray is stating there will be a considerable drop. Tom Murray responded stating he was referring to the bubble classes moving through. He also stated that there is plenty of room at the high

school. Ms. St. Laurent commented that there is not currently plenty of room, as the 3^{rd} grade and preschool are occupying space at the high school.

Tom Murray spoke of the potential options being developed by the facilities committee. Each option will offer the same educational delivery.

Kathleen DiFruscia questioned if other towns (Pelham & Salem) relied on data given to them by NESDEC and noted they still overbuilt.

Mike Joanis noted that the state average for classroom size in grades 1-8 is 19. 20 are still slightly over. If they were to see 50 – 100 houses per year, they would be in big trouble again even with a potential school construction project.

Paul Gosselin spoke of the Gustafson model, noting it would be 200 students. What kind of an impact will that really have? One student per class? Mike Joanis responded it would equate to 3 per classroom.

Tom Murray spoke of the new plans calling for 1000 sq. ft. per classroom because it will give you room to grow, if needed. Further questioning what happens if the Charter School is built and how will that influence what they do.

Vanessa Nysten spoke of her daughter being in a Cultural Foundations class at the high school that has over 40 students in it.

Mike Joanis responded stating that looking at just class sizes can be deceiving as this Cultural Foundations class actually has two teachers (team taught class), which is the reason for 40+ students. Taught in a double classroom space. 20 students per classroom is simply a placeholder.

(9:03pm) Tom Murray spoke of not looking at how the scheduling affects things. Right now administration is very creative with their scheduling.

John Cronin noted he comes to these meetings regularly on behalf of developers. He agrees that everyone wants great class sizes. There is no need to have growth management ordinances. If schools require more space, they can do that if they get the taxpayers to agree. Ordinances are not used to take care of the sins of the past. He feels they are not in a period of unsustainable growth. If they adopted a growth management, the town becomes financial taxed and has to start spending. It is clear that births are down. He states the ordinances cannot go on forever. Will the bubble of student's even benefit from the proposed building project? In terms of impact on value, property values took a hit in other towns. Developers help out the town with impact fees and other things. The schools do need to be built and he feels the taxpayers could be persuaded to support it.

Kristi St. Laurent questioned if Mr. Cronin had any history with other towns that enacted growth ordinances. John Cronin spoke of not seeing 100 permits issued per

year for a long time. In Londonderry, it was very difficult and they experienced burden.

Jerry Rekart questioned what the consequences would be for the town, should a growth ordinance be put in place. Mr. Cronin responded stating that some people may hire him to sue the town.

Ken Eyring asked for clarification regarding impact fees and developers that were grandfathered in. He questioned how that would impact us. John Cronin feels that will not impact the town. You can have both a growth ordinance and an impact fee.

In reference to Attorney Cronins' concern about builders paying an impact fee without building a house, Ms. Nysten asked how that would work because impact fees are not due until an occupancy permit is issued

Paul Gosselin noted that some communities require that the impact fees be collected up front before the development is complete, based on the number of homes they intend to build.

Laura Scott requested adding a 5th meeting in October to hold a workshop on just this agenda item in order to prepare something or not for town meeting.

Margaret Crisler spoke of hearing a lot of data tonight and requested a committee be put together to study it. If the school board feels there is a problem, the planning board should go forward with a study.

Kathleen DiFruscia states they have to be able to justify it. Commenting, sustaining our schools protects property values but they have to be careful.

Dennis Senibaldi hears their questions and concerns. This has been a problem for some time. If something gets passed and built, the goal of the committee is to make sure they are all set based on the numbers presented. Hopefully something will pass at the ballot. The School Board's decisions are based on input from building Principals. Noting the Superintendent always wants what is best for the education of all students.

A formal vote could be taken now to determine if there is a perceived need to pursue it further.

Mike Joanis spoke of being concerned with the following: 5 years, of 50 permits at .83 students per house is another entire grade of students (210 students). You can divide them across all grades and increase class sizes again. He would rather see the planning board do something that takes the edge off. Hopefully it is never needed to ration permits, but he is concerned that there will be years of another 100+ permits. Rob Breton agrees that they should be cautious as he feels the town will continue to grow. He does not want to have to come back to the town and keep asking for more.

(9:35pm) Ken Eyring noted they have 5300 houses in the district currently. If the facilities committee proposals come true, he feels they can handle more growth.

Kristi St. Laurent outlined the next steps should an ordinance be put in place including there being an end date; what the impact would be beyond a certain date; is it having a reasonable impact of protection on schools. She questioned if they could be sued if nothing is passed with voters and they are not making reasonable progress toward that plan in order to keep the ordinance limitation in place.

Ken Eyring feels that is a serious consideration. Ken would not be in favor of a growth management plan because he feels it would put undue pressure on the voters to approve a school project(s). Kristi St. Laurent responded stating that if the limitation imposed does not protect the schools for the time it is in place, they can pull it. Reasonable progress will have to be a made, however.

Dennis Senibaldi spoke of the history in town with things not passing with voters. Hopefully, something will be on the ballot this March and it will pass. What's to say that developers won't buy up all their permits now? He feels it is being pushed onto the school board as their issue to solve. He feels nothings will be solved if a growth management ordinance is put in place.

Kristi St. Laurent noted this is the most common question being made by residents. The planning board is trying to be responsive to the public.

Jerry Rekart noted it is about moving forward with a study, although he has concerns. The facilities committee is not 100% on board with what Mr. Murray spoke of. They still have to deliberate and vet things through. They are doing an admirable job. A study is important to explore what it would look like if they were to experience more growth. He will entertain a motion regarding such.

Bruce Breton noted if they vote in the affirmative, would the School Board then provide detail regarding a study. Kristi St. Laurent read the RSA that governs this matter, noting it is the responsibility of the planning board to provide the study.

The study could be a collaborative effort and will include a lot of historical data. It is a time sensitive matter.

Jim Fricchione agreed there should be detail from the School Board.

(9:55pm)

Motion made by Mike Joanis to recommend the Planning Board proceed with a study for a potential future growth ordinance in accordance with all the required guidelines and RSA's and the district and school board provide the required assistance to do that study $2^{\rm nd}$ Rob Breton

 Discussion on Motion

Jim Fricchione asked for more quantifiable rational. Noting the NESDEC numbers state there will be flat to no growth. What are you basing this on?

Mike Joanis spoke of their need to use the independent, third party NESDEC numbers. He hopes the study happens and the process is vetted out. He also hopes they do not have a problem in the future. Mike is hopeful they do not end up needing a growth ordinance.

Jerry Rekart does not understand the reluctance to perform this study. He does not see it costing the taxpayers an exorbitant amount of money, but rather as a joint venture of the two boards in this town. It will give us information and put this to rest.

Jim Fricchione was simply supporting Bruce Breton's comments.

 Bruce Breton spoke of the unanswered items; charter school; enrollment numbers; growth ordinance and favorable facilities plan. He is concerned that the idea of a Charter School may put in jeopardy the School District's vote in March. Noting there are too many things in the mix. The main goal for the School Board is to bring back programs that they lost.

Jerry Rekart noted the School Board has already weighed in on the Charter School. Many people in town feel the cooperation between the two Boards is a good thing. He appreciates Mr. Breton's comments. Noting the Planning Board came to the School Board asking if they wanted a study.

The Planning Board could ask for funds from Ms. Scott to perform the study, which would be on next year's budget.

 Ken Eyring noted the School District has many burdens. Agrees with putting the vote off until after the study, as they will be sending out mixed messages this year. He feels the Facilities Committee will put forth a reasonable plan to the voters in March in a fiscally responsible manner. The lost educational programs will be restored along with built-in capacity. Stressed they have a lot of other issues to focus on. He cannot support going forward with a study at this time. Jerry Rekart questioned if he would support it if it were amended to be done after the vote.

Dennis also agrees they should wait until after March. Too many things on the ballot will be confusing. He could not vote for it today.

Ms. Scott could amend her budget to include a study in 2015.

Mike Joanis would like to leave the motion as written and leave it up the Planning Board to handle how/when the study is done.

 Motion on the floor passes 3-2 (Ken Eyring and Dennis Senibaldi opposed).

 (10:15pm) Kathleen DiFruscia does not want to do anything right now that will interfere with what the School Board intends to put on the ballot this March. It will have a big impact on developers in town. She is glad they are supporting a study. She would like to have a professional assist them in that regard.

Motion made by Margaret Crisler to perform a study and writing of an ordinance to determine if the town needs a growth management ordinance and based on the school board's motion that they proceed and direct staff to pursue appropriate funding and set up a subcommittee consisting of both the Planning Board and School Board with other members determined $2^{\rm nd}$ by Mr. Gosselin

Discussion on Motion

Ms. Scott noted she usually can't put it out for a study and then ask to write an ordinance. Usually you would hire someone do all of it and not just a study alone.

The Planning Board discussed whether or not to ask for funds to prepare both the study and ordinance. The funds for both would have to be in the budget. Do the RFP for the study first. Margaret noted other towns include transportation and roads.

Bruce Breton spoke of most studies looking at the town as a whole.

Ms. Scott noted Mr. Mayberry's fees in the past for a study, were through a grant. That would not be possible this time. She will find out what that cost would be.

Mr. Desilets asked the board to carefully lay out what they want to see in the study. He noted the draft demographics' chapter from the Southern NH Planning Commission using actual birth and migration rates, to 2050; there is 1.1% growth for this town over the next 35 years. Important to note and consider.

Karl Dubay spoke of a notification that went out to the town that they would be discussing it. He feels they should not be making a motion unless they publicized it for public input. Concerned with the new Motion to proceed. Feels it should be posted.

Laura Scott notes that all their motion is directing is to put money in her budget for 2015 to study a growth management ordinance and potential writing of an ordinance. Then there will be plenty of opportunity for more meetings. A sub committee will hold public meetings.

Karl Dubay – spoke of them spending voter's money.

Kristi St. Laurent respectfully brought the conversation back to the board for vote.

1 2 Margaret Crisler would like to consider pulling back her motion to include taking it 3 up again next week and develop a scope of work. Ms. St. Laurent agreed they 4 should wait to gather information on cost from Ms. Scott. 5 6 Kathleen DiFruscia feels the burden should not be on Laura Scott to determine the 7 scope of study. Noting they are looking for a lot of information. She questioned how 8 they could request a specific amount of money without knowledge of exactly what 9 they want done. 10 11 Paul Gosselin would like for step one to be if they actually want to do it or not. He 12 agrees with Mr. Dubay's point. Then they should put it on their agenda to speak of 13 budget and scope of work. 14 15 (10:35pm)16 Ms. Crisler rescinded her first motion. 17 18 Motion made by Margaret Crisler to go forward with the study and determine 19 the scope of work and financial implications in the future 2nd Kathleen 20 DiFruscia. Motion carries 4-3 21 22 Ms. Scott mentioned and asked for clarification regarding two items she already has 23 in her budget that speaks to scope of work for phase 2 of the master plan and 24 looking at the soils table in the zoning ordinance. Neither one of those have had 25 scope of work done yet. She can pull that money out. She would rather earmark the 26 growth ordinance study instead. 27 28 The board agreed to have her put it in her budget now. 29

Motion to adjourn at 10:40pm by Ms. Crisler 2nd Mr. Breton. 6-0

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Submitted – Diane Figaro